



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK RANGERS ASSIST IN CARBON COUNTY, MONTANA SEARCH AND RESCUE

Four Grand Teton National Park rangers traveled to Carbon County, Montana early Monday, August 25, to assist with the rescue of an injured climber on Silver Run Mountain, near the town of Red Lodge. The park's search and rescue (SAR) team was contacted Sunday evening, August 24, after searchers from Yellowstone National Park were unable to locate the injured party by helicopter late that afternoon. Because Grand Teton's contract helicopter could not fly before darkness on Sunday, rangers Dan Burgette, Dave Bywater, and Scott Guenther flew to the scene of the accident at 7:30 a.m. Monday morning, while ranger Ron Johnson drove from Bozeman, Montana to join them.

On Sunday, 34-year-old Erin Taylor of Bozeman, Montana and climbing partner Rebecca Hodkins, 32, were climbing a route on Silver Run Mountain when a 60-pound rock broke free and fell onto Taylor's back. Hodkins helped Taylor relocate to a more substantial ledge, then rappelled from the climbing route and ran five miles to request help from local search and rescuers. The Carbon County rescue team subsequently hiked and climbed to the scene of the accident, arriving around 3:00 a.m. Monday morning. They determined that Taylor could not easily be moved from his location, and requested help from the park's rangers who were on standby to assist.

Grand Teton's SAR team arrived on the scene and used the short haul rescue method to insert two rangers onto the small ledge where Taylor was waiting. After placing Taylor onto a rescue litter suspended by a double rope system below the helicopter, Ranger Bywater attended him during a short flight to a temporary landing spot. Taylor was then transferred into the helicopter and flown to the airport at Red Lodge. Upon arrival at the airport, an air ambulance from Billings transported Taylor to St. Vincent Healthcare for treatment of his injuries. Ranger Guenther accompanied Hodkins from the accident site on a separate helicopter flight.

Because of their extensive training, unique skills, and broad experience conducting search and rescues on difficult terrain, Grand Teton's SAR team periodically assists other agencies. In 2001, they helped conduct five rescues in Wyoming's Wind River Range and the Teton Wilderness, and in 2002, they assisted with a rescue on Granite Peak in the Beartooth Range.

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